GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2819
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
CLOSURE OF SAW MILLS
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any saw-mills have been closed in the country particularly in Rajasthan following a decision of the Hon`ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any initiative to restart these mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)
(a) Yes, Sir. Hon`ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 4.3.1997 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 directed the closure of all unlicenced saw mills, veneer and plywood industries in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.Subsequently, on 29.10.2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995, the Court has directed that no State or Union Territory shall permit unlicenced saw mill, Veneer, plywood industry to operate and they are directed to close all such unlicenced units forthwith. Pursuant to the above directions, many saw mills in the Country including Rajasthan have been closed.

(b)&(c) The Hon`ble Supreme Court has authorised the Central Empowered Committee to grant permission for opening of the saw mills in the country. The State Government of Rajasthan has already approached the Central Empowered Committee seeking grant of licence to saw mills.